

REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the Early Childhood teaching certificate or the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Mild-Moderate Disabilities, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic / Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE

The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.

Effective January 1, 2016, requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. One of the following (Option A, B, or C):
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood special education from an accredited institution or a teacher preparation program approved by the Board.
 - B. Thirty-seven (37) semester hours of early childhood which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, to include all of the following areas of study:
 - (1) Foundations of early childhood education and special education; (2) Behavioral interventions for children with and without disabilities; (3) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; (4) Typical and atypical child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition with an emphasis on special health care needs for children birth through age 8 or grade 3; (5) Child, family, cultural and community relationships including community organizations that support and assist children with disabilities and their families; (6) Developmentally appropriate instructional and inclusive methodologies for teaching social and emotional development, language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts and diagnosis and remediation of learning difficulties; (7) Early language and literacy development including communication methods in early childhood education/special education; (8) Assessment and evaluation for early childhood special education to include observing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of young children;
 - AND**
 - A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum, including:
 - A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs birth through preschool **or** one year of full-time teaching experience with children identified with special needs birth through preschool. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience; **AND**
 - A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs in kindergarten through grade 3 **or** one year of full time teaching experience with children identified with special needs kindergarten through grade 3. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience
 - C. A valid Early Childhood Special Education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.
One of the following:
 - A. A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment ([AEPA website](#)).
 - B. A passing score on a [comparable out-of-state](#) Professional Knowledge Early Childhood exam. Submit the official score report with your application. **Note:** The score report must indicate that you passed the exam.
 - C. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a photocopy of the certificate.
 - D. Three (3) years of full-time teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.

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7. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education Exam.

One of the following:

- A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education (23) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment ([AEPA website](#)).
- B. A passing score on a [comparable out-of-state](#) Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education exam. Submit the official score report with your application. **Note:** The score report must indicate that you passed the exam.
- C. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- D. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Special Education.

8. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement *

The SEI endorsement requires **one** of the following (option A, B, or C):

- A. Official transcript documenting a three (3) semester hours State Board approved SEI course or comparable SEI training from another state.
- B. Certificate of training documenting completion of forty-five (45) clock hours of State Board approved SEI training or comparable SEI training from another state.
- C. Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** English as a Second Language (ESL) or **Full** Bilingual Education endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

*** Note:** The requirements for a SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed **three years** for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other certification requirements.

Requirements # 9 and # 10 are required within one year or three years.**

9. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

10. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

****NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the requirement(s).

➤ **STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

- 1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
- 2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to **convert** the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
- 3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.
NOTE: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
- 4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.